

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon

Minutes for monthly meeting, December 11, 2017

Samson Environmental Center, Darrow School

Present: CAC members Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Jack Lancto, Peg Munves, Craig Westcott

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. Members having no suggested revisions, the minutes for the monthly meeting on November 13, 2017, were approved.

We discussed the Town Board meeting scheduled for the following night, December 12, at which a resolution approving the Natural Resource Conservation Plan (NRCP) will be voted on. The price for bound copies sold to the public will also be voted on. David Farren shared the resolution received that morning from Supervisor Colleen Teal. The town attorney had added one Whereas clause and several additional Be It Therefore Resolved clauses at the end.

We focused on tasks yet to be completed. Craig Westcott suggested that Darrow's involvement in creating an online scenic resource inventory during Hands to Work sessions would work best during the spring term. We will need to identify potential Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) and act on other priorities identified in the plan. In addition, we will need to spell out protocols for updating NCRP maps and other information. Once Gretchen Stevens provides the complete data files for the NRCP, as promised, updating will be possible.

David and Peg Munves attended the unveiling of the Columbia County NRI on November 29 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension offices in Hudson. Gretchen Stevens presented sections of the draft plan to a large, engaged audience. The plan echoes our NRCP in many ways but with many more maps.

David participated on a 3-person panel convened by Ingrid Haeckel at the 2017 Conference on the Environment in Kingston on November 17. The NYS Association of Conservation Commissions hosted the panel, which addressed Natural Resources Inventories. The panelists responded to Ingrid's questions about process, public engagement and application and to questions from a large and appreciative audience. David was able to share bound copies of the NRCP.

We next addressed pending proposals before the Planning Board. Peg agreed to represent the CAC at the next Planning Board meeting, scheduled for 7:30 P.M. on December 20. She will touch base with Cynthia Creech about the CAC's written response to the Stewart's Shops expansion plan. We have not been asked to respond to the Shedman's new location and wondered whether it would be on the agenda.

The next monthly meeting for the CAC will be Monday, January 8, 2018, starting at 6:30 P.M. at Darrow's Samson Environmental Center.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by David Farren